# LICENSES AND CONSUMER SERVICES LICENSE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

LICENSE NUMBER: L186-50171 POLICE FILE NUMBER: 13338

**DATE OF APPLICATION:** October 23, 2012

**INSPECTOR:** Greg Buenning

APPLICANT/LEGAL ENTITY: Kotobuki, USA Inc.

**DBA/TRADE NAME:** Origami Uptown

**COMPLETE ADDRESS:** 1352 Lagoon Avenue

Minneapolis, MN 55408

**LICENSE REQUESTED:** Class "E" On Sale Liquor with Sunday Sales

CURRENT LICENSE: Applicant currently operates a Class "E" On-

Sale Liquor with Sunday Sales at 30 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North.

**PURPOSE OF APPLICATION:** To obtain a new On Sale Liquor License and

Private Outdoor Patio

**RESPONSIBLE PERSON WITHIN 75 MILES OF MINNEAPOLIS CITY HALL:** yes

**PUBLIC HEARING REQUIREMENTS:** A public hearing is required

**LICENSE CONDITIONS:** The applicant has agreed to conditions that were placed

upon the business

**NEIGHBORHOOD/WARD:** Lowry Hills East/Ward 10

ZONING: C3A

7 ACRE REQUIREMENT: Met

**OFF-STREET PARKING:** The Minneapolis Zoning Department requires 63 off street parking spots. The applicant has met this requirement with an existing parking ramp adjacent to the business.

CHURCHES OR SCHOOLS WITHIN 300 FEET OF THE PROPOSED PREMISES: No

**SEATING:** Inside: 92 Outdoor patio: 36

FIRE OCCUPANCY: 123

**FOOD SERVICE REQUIREMENT:** 60/40

**HOURS OF OPERATION PROPOSED: INSIDE:** 11:15 a.m. – 2:00 a.m. daily

**OUTSIDE:** 11:15 a.m. – 2:00 a.m. daily

## METROPOLITAN COUNCIL SERVICE AVAILABILITY CHARGES: Pending

#### HISTORY OF LOCATION

This is a new space in the recently built Mosaic building. The space has no occupancy history.

## **APPLICANT**

The applicant is Kotobuki USA, Inc., DBA, Origami Uptown was incorporated under Chapter 302A (3423187-2) on July 22, 2009. The applicant has provided documentation showing adequate, legal, and traceable funding for this venture. They have the required restriction on the transfer of shares and have the following shareholders and officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Shares</u>
Kiminobu Ichikawa	President	20%
Emiko Grant	Vice President	80%

### MANAGER

Mr. Ichikawa and Ms. Grant will both fulfill the role of managers for the establishment. They both have vast experience in the hospitality industry. They currently own and operate Origami at 30 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North in Minneapolis. Mr. Ichikawa has been there since 1988. Ms. Grant has been there since 1995. They bring the experience that they had with their downtown location to the Uptown area. They have numerous years of experience in training staff the process of Japanese cooking and offering a quality dining experience for their patrons.

#### **POLICE REVIEW**

Police Licensing and this Inspector have reviewed the expenses and source of funds reported in this application. The applicant has provided documentation showing adequate legal and traceable funding for this venture and has passed the criminal background check. The Fifth Precinct of the Minneapolis Police Department has discussed security issues with the applicant.

#### **PREMISES**

The lease shows exclusive use of premises by the applicant. The licensed premises are on the first floor and mezzanine area of the establishment. The premises will consist of approximately 3,140 square feet. There is seating for 92 people at tables and chairs including 12 seats at the bar. The private outdoor patio area will have 600 square feet of space and have seating for 36 patrons. The outdoor patio will be divided into two separate patios. One will be north of the main doors. It will seat 14 patrons. The other will be south of the main doors and will seat 22 patrons. The chairs will be arranged facing inward toward the restaurant to minimize noise for neighbors. The outdoor patio will be surrounded by a fence and flowers to help absorb noise. The only means of entering the patio areas is from the interior of the business.

## **BUSINESS/PLAN/OPERATIONS**

The applicant's vision for Origami is to be a fine dining destination for their customers. Their menu will focus on Japanese cuisine, including hot and cold appetizers, sushi, various entrees and a la carte choices. They will employ a staff of approximately 40. Origami is required to have a 60/40 food to alcohol ratio. All employees will complete alcohol compliance training provided by Ale Training. They will then have annual compliance training as part of their normal process. They will have a discipline policy for alcohol servers. Proposed business hours will be 11:15 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. daily with alcohol service ceasing no later than 2:00 a.m. The requested outdoor patio hours are 11:15 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. Sunday through Tuesday, and 11:15 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. Wednesday through Saturday. The applicants indicate that they will have speakers in their private outdoor patio. They will turn the speakers off by 12:00 a.m. Sunday through Tuesday, and by 1:00 a.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Origami will be seeking approval of a Class "E" On Sale Liquor with Sunday Sales license. This license does not allow live entertainment. The applicants indicate that they will provide prerecorded music indoors and on their outdoor patio. Their outdoor patio area will have music of a similar to the inside at a low background level not to disrupt other businesses and neighbors. They will not offer charitable gambling, mechanical amusement devices, and they will not host any sporting events or teams as part of their business plan. The applicant has indicated that they will ensure that the outside area will be monitored for litter abatement on a regular basis.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY**

A public hearing is required for this application. 144 public hearing notices were mailed out to residents and property owners within 600 feet of the premises and e-mailed to the Lowry Hills East Neighborhood Association, CARAG Neighborhood Association, and the East Calhoun Community Organization. Business Licenses received no public hearing responses. A public hearing was held at Grace Trinity Church, 1430 28<sup>th</sup> Street West on November 13, 2012. Five people attended the public hearing. Of those attending there were no concerns raised. All felt that if this business is approved it will be a welcome addition to the Uptown area.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Licenses and Consumer Services Division make the following recommendation for the application for Origami. The license application for a Class "E" On Sale Liquor with Sunday Sales and license with a private outdoor patio is recommended for approval.

#### LICENSE CONDITIONS

Staff is recommending conditions to be placed on this license.